

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the claims 7-12 and 14 are allowed. The remarks here address the rejected claims, namely claims 1-4, 6 and 13.

Regarding claims 13, it has been cancelled in light of its being repetitive of claim 10.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Williams '678 in view of Armstrong '982. Having fully reviewed Williams and Armstrong, Applicants must respectfully disagree. Indeed, Applicants have amended claim 1 back to its original form in light of the fact that the original claim is allowable over the application of Williams '678. Particularly, with reference to Williams '678 at Col. 7, lines 15-36 and Col. 8, lines 21-31, it can be seen that Williams '678 only contemplates permitting debris to be vacuumed from either side of the rotatable brush **through selection by the operator** (Col. 8, l. 24-25). That is, the operator selects which nozzle is to receive the suction power, be it the suction nozzle in front of the rotatable brush or the suction nozzle behind the rotatable brush. In distinction, claim 1 covers a cleaning machine wherein the valve assembly that is associated with the suction nozzle assembly covers or uncovers the front and rear nozzle portions **in response to the base assembly moving in forward and rearward directions**. This is significant in that, in accordance with the present invention, the operator of the cleaning machine does not have to take additional steps to ensure that the vacuum source is acting upon the appropriate nozzle. Instead, the vacuum source is applied to the appropriate nozzle in response to the direction in which the base assembly is moved. In light of this claim limitation, reconsideration of independent claim 1 is respectfully requested, and it is believed that claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance.

The above distinction is even more specifically distinguished in claim 4 and newly added claim 23, and particular consideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested for all pending claims. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the foregoing in greater detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

One new claim has been added, however, the cancellation of other claims results in no fee being due for the new claim. However, in the event that a fee is due, the office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0987.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark L. Weber, Reg. No. 46,069
Renner, Kenner, Greive, Bobak, Taylor & Weber
First National Tower - Fourth Floor
Akron, Ohio 44308-1456
Telephone: (330) 376-1242
Facsimile: (330) 376-9646

Attorney for Applicants